



Village of Mokena

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January 25, 2008

01037.012508.WERNER.LOCL.60448.O.N.EF

BY E-FILE

The Honorable Anne K. Quinlan

Acting Secretary

Surface Transportation Board

395 E Street, S.W.

Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re: Finance Docket No. 35087 Canadian National Railway Company
and Grand Trunk Corporation – Control – EJ&E West Company

Dear Acting Secretary Quinlan:

I am writing to share the Village of Mokena's comments and request the STB's consideration of several items relative to Canadian National (CN) Railway's proposed acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet, and Eastern (EJ&E) Railroad.

As submitted in its proposal to the STB, CN plans to increase freight traffic on the EJ&E by a factor of four to five on the segment of track which borders our community on the south from Wolf Road to points west of 116th Avenue. If approved, the increased rail traffic generated by CN will significantly contribute to increased air pollution, noise, vibration, grade-crossing risk, hazardous materials risk, traffic congestion, and blockages of vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian crossings.

Given the above-referenced negative impacts this acquisition will have on our community, we respectfully request that the STB condition approval of the acquisition on specified mitigation actions to be taken and paid for by CN, including but not limited to the following:

- Movement of the proposed transition point between double and single tracking from just east of the 116th Avenue crossing, west of Wolf Road, to a location lacking residential development that directly abuts the trackage on both sides. As currently configured in CN's plans, locomotives will be prone to idling along a stretch of track that is directly bounded on both sides by residential housing developments.
- Installation of quad gates or grade separations at the EJ&E's Wolf Road and 116th Avenue crossings.
- Installation of barriers such as sound walls (preferred option) or earthen berms along both sides of EJ&E trackage between Wolf Road and Schoolhouse Road to buffer adjacent

residential areas from noise generated by increased freight traffic and idling locomotives.

- Installation of new, separate bicycle/pedestrian crossings with pedestrian gates at Wolf Road and 116th Avenue.
- Allocation of defined resources to address increased risks associated with the transport of additional volumes of hazardous material along EJ&E trackage and provision of a written plan detailing how hazardous waste spills between Wolf Road and Schoolhouse Road will be handled.

Please enter these comments and requests for consideration into the official record relative to this proposed acquisition.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph W. Werner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a distinct "W".

Joseph W. Werner
Village President

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have on this 25th day of January, 2008, served copies of this letter upon all known parties of record in this proceeding by first-class mail or a more expeditious method.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph W. Werner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a distinct "W".

Joseph W. Werner

Hinda, James

From: White, Stephanie
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2008 5:23 PM
To: Hinda, James
Subject: FW: CN acquisition of EJ&E
Attachments: LET_01-25-08 STB.pdf

From: Burgel, Bill
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2008 4:21 PM
To: White, Stephanie; Wollschlager, Mark
Subject: FW: CN acquisition of EJ&E

Looks like I received an official "comment" from the Village of Mokena. Please incorporate these comments with the balance of your submittals.

Bill

From: Kirk Zoellner [mailto:kzoellner@mokena.org]
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2008 2:15 PM
To: Burgel, Bill
Subject: CN acquisition of EJ&E

Bill:

Thank you for answering my questions and receiving our Village's comments at the Joliet Open House on January 10.

Attached please find our formal comments submitted to the STB. As we discussed in Joliet, we are particularly concerned about CN's proposal to transition from double to single track in the area between 116th Avenue and Wolf Road—an area where the EJ&E right-of-way is abutted on both sides by higher-level single family residential development.

Thank you in advance for your consideration as you begin the EIS process.

Sincerely,

Kirk Zoellner
Assistant Village Administrator
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1/28/2008

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